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# *Arracacia ravenii* (Apiaceae), a New Species from Southern Mexico

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**ABSTRACT.** A new species of *Arracacia* (Apiaceae) is described from the high mountains of Chiapas and Oaxaca, Mexico. Although sharply distinct in many respects, it is contrasted with *A. pringlei* J. Coulter & Rose, the Oaxacan taxon it most closely resembles.

*Arracacia* Bancroft is one of the largest and most important apioid genera of Umbelliferae in the New World, not least because some of its members served as important food plants for the Incas. The genus is central to a number of other Mesoamerican genera, such as *Tauschia*, *Coaxana*, *Coulterophytum*, *Myrrhidendron*, and *Neonelsonia*, all of which have been confused with it in one way or another. It continues to yield well-marked but previously undescribed forms from throughout its extensive range. Attention is called to the following example to facilitate its inclusion in *Flora Mesoamericana*.

***Arracacia ravenii*** Constance & Affolter, sp. nov.

**TYPE:** Mexico. Chiapas: Municipio de Tenejapa, steep heavily wooded slope of Cerro Zontehuitz, with *Quercus*, *Drimys* & *Magnolia* on NE side of hill, paraje of Matsab, alt. 9200 ft. (2804 m), 25 Aug. 1966, D. E. Breedlove 15311 (holotype, DH; isotype, UC). Figure 1a-f.

Species *Arracaciae pringlei* J. Coulter & Rose affinis sed habitu procumbenti, non glauco-caulibus, divisionibus foliorum confertis acutis non acuminatis, pedunculo solitario terminali, involucello evidenti, floribus flavo-virentibus, fructibus late ovoideis differt.

Slender, caulescent, branching, woody-based perennial herbs forming trailing mats to 60 cm long, the foliage glabrous, the inflorescence scaberulous; leaves triangular-ovate, 5–15 cm diam., ternate-bipinnate or 2–3-pinnately dissected, the ultimate divisions oblong-ovate to lanceolate, 5–15 mm long, 1–10 mm broad, crowded, sessile, acute, spinulose-

serrate and pinnately incised toward base, the uppermost confluent, conspicuously reticulate, squamously tufted on the rachis above, a well-defined nodal ring lacking; petiole 5–10 cm long, oblong-sheathing; cauline leaves numerous, like the basal; inflorescence of a solitary rather stout terminal peduncle 10–20 cm long; umbels 8–12 cm diam.; involucre lacking, or of inconspicuous filiform bracts; rays 12–18, mostly fertile, slender, 3.5–5 cm long, subequal, slightly webbed; umbellets 30–40-flowered, the 2–8 fertile pedicels slender, 5–10 mm long; involucel of 5–8 linear-lanceolate, scarious-margined, acuminate bractlets to 10 mm long, equaling flowers but shorter than fruit; flowers greenish yellow, the petals oval; stylopodium conical, the styles slender; carpophore apparently bipartite; fruit broadly ovoid, 4–5 mm long, 3–4 mm broad, glabrous, tapering at apex, the ribs very prominent; vittae large, usually solitary in intervals, 2 on commissure; seed channeled under intervals, the face sulcate; chromosome number unknown.

**Distribution.** Known only from mountains of central Chiapas (Cerro Zontehuitz) and southern Oaxaca (Cerro Zempoaltepetl).

**Habitat.** Steep slopes with *Quercus*, *Drimys*, *Magnolia*, *Ilex*, and *Podocarpus*, in wet montane or cloud forest, at 2400–3000 m.

*Arracacia ravenii* keys readily to the group of woody-based species comprising *A. fruticosa* Rose, *A. ebracteata* (Rose) Mathias & Constance, *A. aegopodioides* (Kunth) J. Coulter & Rose, and *A. pringlei* J. Coulter & Rose, more particularly the last. It differs from *A. pringlei* in its sprawling habit, green rather than glaucous stems and rachises, crowded leaf divisions, solitary terminal peduncle rather than terminally clustered peduncles, evident involucel, yellowish green rather than purple flowers, and broadly ovoid rather than oblong-fusiform fruit.

We are pleased to name the plant for Peter Raven, who, among so many other accomplishments, played a very significant role in initiating the *Flora of Chiapas* project.



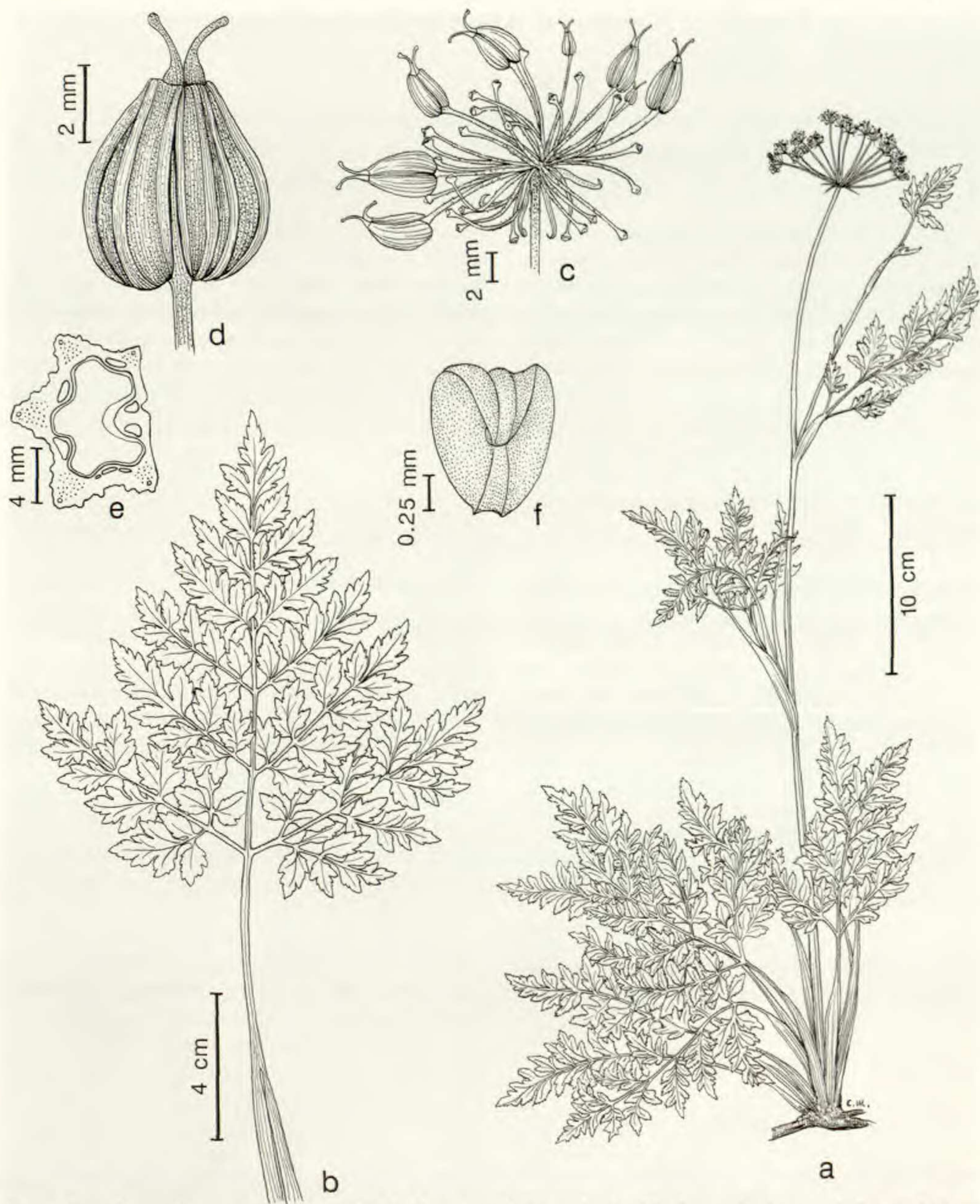


Figure 1. *Arracacia ravenii* Constance & Affolter. —a. Habit. —b. Basal leaf. —c. Fruiting umbellet. —d. Fruit, lateral view. —e. Mericarp transection. —f. Petal. (a, *Breedlove & Raven 8105*; b–f, *Breedlove 15311*.)

**Paratypes. MEXICO. Chiapas:** Mun. of San Cristobal las Casas, SW slope of Cerro Zontehuitz, 19 Jan. 1965, *Breedlove & Raven 8105* (DH, UC), 24 May 1965, *Breedlove 10020* (DH, MICH, UC); Santa Cruz en San Felipe, 15 Nov. 1986, *Ton & M. C. Mtz. de Lopez 9529* (MO); Mun of Tenejapa, slope at Paraje Matsab, 5 Jan. 1966, *Ton 487* (DH, UC); slope in Paraje Pahal Ton, 20 Jan. 1966, *Ton 668* (DH, UC), Cerro Sontehuits, Las Casas–Tenejapa, 28 June 1942, *M. C. Carlson 2411*

(MEXU); summit of Cerro Tzonohuitz, 92°35'W, 16°49'N, 26 Mar. 1986, *Snow & Whittemore 212* (MO). **Oaxaca:** steep N slope of Cerro Zempoaltepetl, 35 km N of Ayutla, Mitla–Choapam, 17 Apr. 1988, *Breedlove & Bartholomew 66871* (CAS).

**Acknowledgment.** The figure was prepared by Charlotte Mentges Hannan.